



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

MUSCAT • OMAN

State Alumni Voice

A quarterly newsletter published by the U.S. Embassy in Muscat

February, 2014

Omani Alumni Play Against U.S. Embassy Soccer Team

Highlights:

- Alumni vs. Embassy Soccer Match
- Female Alumni Bowling Tournament
- Bret Webster Visits Oman
- Alumni Experience
- Certificates Reception for Teachers
- Recent Exchange Programs Participants
- Alumni Facebook Group
- Resources



On Wednesday, Jan 15, 2014, the U.S. Embassy in Muscat organized a soccer match between Omani alumni of various exchange programs and the U.S. Embassy soccer team at the Oman Football Club. More than 16 alumni of Access, YES, FLTA, and other exchange programs came to play for the alumni team. The event was a great reunion opportunity for some alumni who participated in the same exchange programs and a chance to meet new fellow alumni and U.S. Embassy staff. Both teams played hard and the match ended with a 5-1 win for the Embassy team. The U.S. Embassy will organize more sport activities for Omani alumni in the coming months.



U.S. Exchange Programs

[http://oman.usembassy.gov/
educational-exchange.html](http://oman.usembassy.gov/educational-exchange.html)



AMERICAN ENGLISH

[American English Website](http://americanenglish.state.gov)

[http://
americanenglish.state.gov](http://americanenglish.state.gov)



U.S. Embassy Muscat

<http://oman.usembassy.gov/>

"Let's Go Bowling" Female Alumni Tournament

Female alumni of U.S. exchange programs and a number of U.S. embassy staff gathered at Oman Bowling Center on Wednesday January 29 and had a mini bowling tournament.



More than 13 female alumni joined the alumni team and bowled for almost two hours. It was a great gathering and everyone had a good time.

United States Embassy Welcomes American Photographer



On February 5, Paul Malik, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, opened an exhibition at the Oman Photography Association in Muscat, co-hosted by the American Embassy, featuring the works of American photographer Bret Webster, who is traveling to Oman and Kuwait on a U.S. State Department grant to display his images and to hold workshops with photography students and hobbyists.

Mr. Malik saluted Mr. Webster's outreach to the Dhofar region where he gave master classes to local photographers and presented on his experience as an artist and held an exhibition at the Omani Photography

Association in Salalah.

Mr. Webster is a natural landscape photographer based in Park City, Utah. His work focuses on the landscapes, terrains and seasons of the Colorado Plateau which extends west from Colorado and New Mexico into Utah and Arizona, encompassing some of the most iconic and breathtaking scenery to be found in the United States. Mr. Webster's images of Monument Valley, U.S. National Parks such as Arches and the Grand Canyon, and other wild and beautiful places, capture the spirit and mystery of the American West.

Mr. Webster's photography highlights the shared landscapes of the United



States and the Sultanate of Oman, such as the Empty Quarter and the American Mojave Desert, and the clear starry skies above both countries' many natural reserves. The theme of the U.S. Embassy's upcoming National Day celebration is the idea of shared landscapes and the strong bilateral friendship between America and the Sultanate.

"The Hubert Humphrey Program gave me the opportunity to interact with experts in HIV/AIDS."

Mustafa Barami, a young Omani entrepreneur, shares his experience in the U.S.

Hubert Humphrey Alumna Educates the Public about AIDS Issues in Oman

Pharmacist **Khadija Al Mahrouqi** is an alumna of the Hubert Humphrey Program. She participated in World AIDS Day activities organized by the Ministry of Health by giving a number of workshops to different audiences on the issue of HIV, particularly on "Stigma and Discrimination in HIV". She also gave lectures on "Counseling Skills" at a number of schools

and health centers to increase public awareness on how to deal with HIV patients. In addition, Khadija is helping prepare a flipchart for counselors and people living with HIV.

2013 IVLP Alumnus Shares His Experience

Mustafa participated in the multi-regional IVLP program on "Youth Entrepreneurship" in November 2013. Here is what he thinks of his experience.

"I spent three weeks across the US learning about new cultures, entrepreneurship, volunteering, meeting new people, and inter-

acting with successful entrepreneurs. Although the program was busy and included a lot of travels and visits, time flew by fast. The program was quite useful and well organized and thanks for the American Embassy for nominating me for this valuable program indeed.



FLTA & E-Teacher Graduates "Certificates Reception"

U.S. Embassy
honors participants
in two exchange
programs



On Wednesday, Feb 5 the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Embassy in Muscat organized a certificate reception to recognize the participation of more than 13 Omani teachers in two distinguished programs. The first is the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) which provides opportunities for young Omani teachers of English to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the cultures and customs of the United States, and the second is the E-Teacher scholarship, which offers English language teaching professionals living outside of the United States the opportunity to take innovative, online, graduate-level classes through the University of Oregon.

Read more about U.S. exchange programs at: <http://oman.usembassy.gov/educational-exchange.html>

Exchange Programs Participants

"Read more about
other exchange
programs and
opportunities"

Visit: <http://oman.usembassy.gov/educational-exchange.html>

Khalfan Al Mahrizi, Vice-President of Knowledge Oman (pictured) will participate in Department of



State International Visitor Leadership Program on "Young Political, Economic, and Social Leaders Rise: Renew, Innovate, Serve, Empower", from February 24- March 14, 2014.

Khalfan and a number of other participants from around the world will visit Florida, Ohio, Nevada, and Kentucky during the program.



Amro Al Siyabi, Coordinator of the Committee of Partnership at Omani Network for Volunteers "Taa'won", participated recently in the Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program on "Volunteerism in the U.S.: Civic Leadership in Action". The program was held from Jan 21- Feb 7, 2014. and included visits to Washington D.C.; Sacramento, California; Denver, Colorado; and Atlanta, Georgia.

Encouraging Arab Students in the U.S. to Volunteer

Ahmed Al Suleimani, 2013 Fulbright FLTA scholarship participant, who is currently teaching Arabic at Michigan State University, has recently participated in a training session on volunteerism organized by the Office of International Students and Scholars at the university. The training was held at the Center of Service Learning and Civic Engagement, which is responsible for organizing volunteerism work and stu-

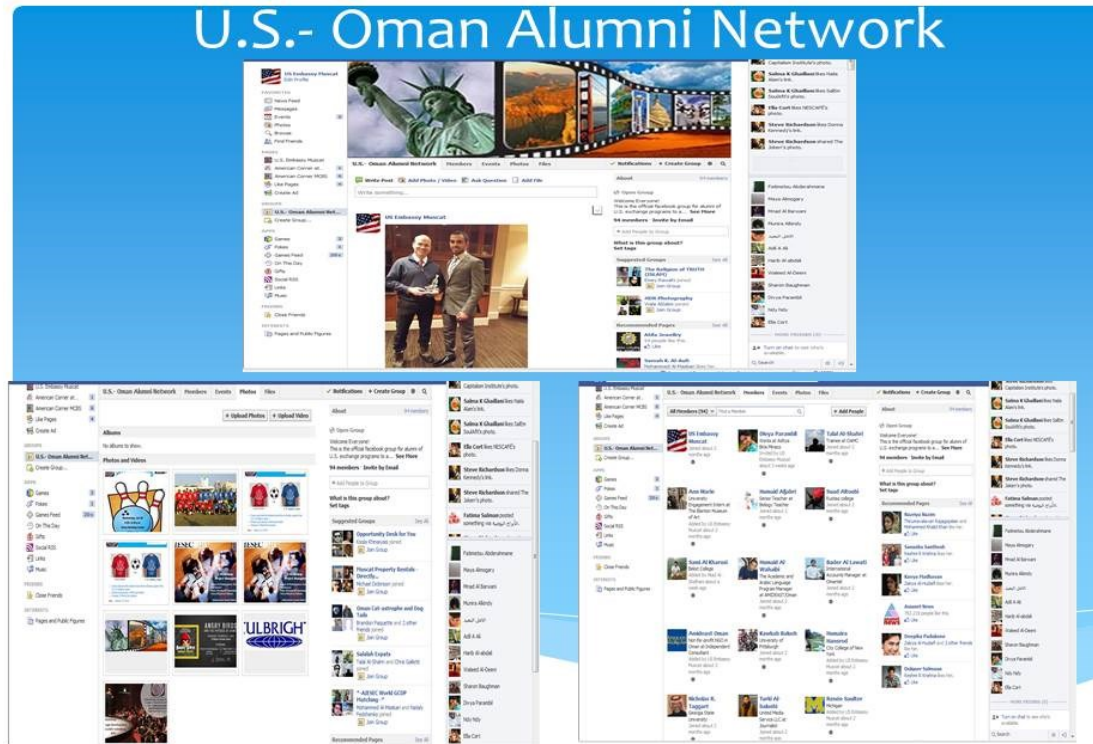


Ahmed with a group of international students

dents' volunteer activities in the community.

Ahmed spoke about ways to encourage Arab students in U.S. universities to volunteer and how the concepts of "volunteerism" and helping others are deeply rooted in Islam. Participants also shared examples of volunteer work at their home countries and efforts to maximize community engagement.

A Facebook Group for Alumni



**“Join the U.S.-
Oman Alumni
Network and stay
tuned on Embassy
outreach activities
and connect with
Alumni from Oman
and the U.S.”**

Join the [U.S.- Oman Alumni Network](https://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyMuscat#1/groups/1394863300752582/), the official facebook group for Omani and American Alumni of U.S. exchange programs. The group is for Omani Alumni of U.S. exchange programs, and Omani graduates of U.S. universities, and Americans who visit Oman on exchange programs. Individuals who are interested in studying in the U.S. or learn more about the U.S. Embassy exchange opportunities are welcome to join. The group is a great platform for meeting fellow alumni, interacting with friends and asking about anything related to exchange programs, alumni activities and studying in the U.S. Also, the Embassy announces workshops, alumni outreach activities and resources in this group. Join today!

<https://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyMuscat#1/groups/1394863300752582/>

International Exchange Alumni Website



The new website responds to alumni requests for a faster, more modern, interactive, and accessible website. It features enhancements of your favorite content including a \$33 billion grants database, job opportunities, an e-library of more than 20,000 publications, and alumni news and events. It also offers exciting new features including a project collaboration space as well as tools for you to more easily connect and engage with your peers. Additionally, the new site features pages that are viewable by the public so that we can work with you to share your achievements with a global audience.

State Alumni Voice

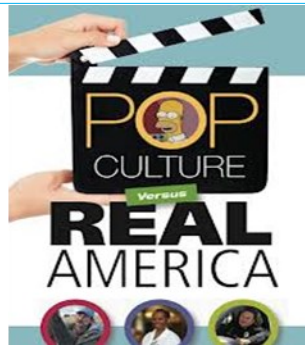
State Alumni Voice is a quarterly newsletter published by the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Embassy in Muscat and aims to connect to Omani alumni of U.S. exchange programs. The newsletter features alumni news by highlighting alumni recent events and activities as well as U.S. Embassy outreach programs. It is also a platform for alumni to share their success stories through their exchange programs and spread the word about them. The newsletter also provides alumni with updated information, resources, job and training opportunities and upcoming events and programs deadlines.

RESOURCES:

www.ejUSA.state.gov



[Overcoming Barriers to Equal Education](#)



[Pop Culture Versus Real America](#)



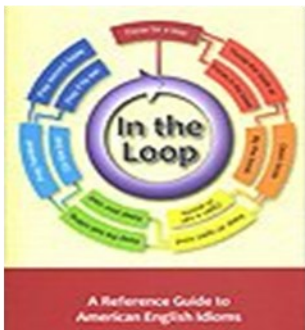
[English Teaching Forum](#)



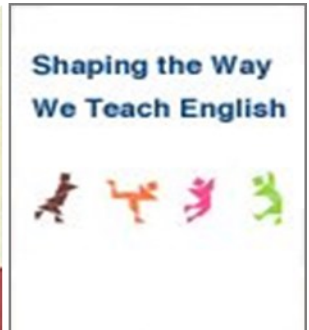
[Celebrate! Holidays in the U.S.A.](#)



[Sing Out Loud: Children's Songs](#)



[In the Loop: American Idioms Book](#)



[Shaping the Way We Teach English](#)



Photo of the Empty Quarter by: Bret Webster



Keep in touch and send us your suggestions for alumni events, inquiries, success stories, and proposals. Contact Alumni Coordinator Sami Al Kharusi at: AL-KharusiSS@state.gov

U.S Embassy Social Media Links: oman.usembassy.gov/communities.html